REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 1, 2005 has been received and considered. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Allowed Claims 11 and 25

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at page 7 of the Office Action that claims 11 and 25 are allowed.

Anticipation Rejection of Claims 1-10, 12-24, and 26-30

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-10, 12-24, and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Epperson (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0040343). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "a power detector *coupled to an output* of the gain control stage, the power detector to detect a ramp of the amplified signal and to provide an indication of the ramp." (emphasis added). This feature is not disclosed by Epperson. Instead Epperson discloses a controller that adjusts the characteristics of a power amplifier based on an adjustable control signal (VRAMP signal 74). *Epperson*, FIG. 2, [0034-35]. The Office Action asserts that the power control circuitry 46 of Epperson's FIG. 2 disclose the power detector, and that op-amps 60, 62, and 64 disclose the gain control stage of claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. FIG. 2 plainly shows that the power control circuitry 46 is not coupled to an output of the op-amps 60, 62, and 64. Epperson is clear that the power control circuitry 46 is only *coupled to an input* of the op amps 62 and 64:

> An adjustable power control signal 74 (VRAMP) may be received by a negative input 76 of an operational amplifier forming error amplifier 68. The output 78 of the voltage regulator 70 is fed back through the feedback network 72 and received by positive input 80 of error amplifier 68. An output signal 82 from error amplifier 68 is provided to a control input 84 of the voltage regulator 70 that controls the regulated output 78 of voltage regulator 70. The voltage regulator 70 regulates the voltage supplied to the rails 86, 88 of the second and third amplifier stages 62, 64, respectively.

Id. [0035]. Accordingly, assuming *arguendo* that the op-amps 60, 62, and 64 disclose a gain control stage, Epperson does not disclose a power detector coupled to an output of a gain control stage, as recited in claim 1. Rather, Epperson teaches power control circuitry 46 couplde to an input of power amplifier circuitry 44.

In addition, the power control circuitry 46 does not detect *a ramp* of an amplified signal *produced by the gain control stage* and does not provide an indication of the ramp, as recited by claim 1. Instead, as described above, the power control circuitry 46 produces an error signal based on a control signal VRAMP. There is no disclosure in Epperson that the control signal is provided by the op-amps 60, 62, or 64. Accordingly, assuming *arguendo* that the op-amps 60, 62, and 64 disclose a gain control stage, and that power control circuitry 46 discloses a power detector, Epperson does not disclose a power detector to detect a ramp of the amplified signal and to provide an indication of the ramp as recited by claim 1.

Claims 2-10 and 12-16 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, Epperson fails to disclose each and every element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Further, these claims recite additional novel features.

With respect to claim 17, the claim recites "amplifying the RF signal with a gain control stage to produce an amplified signal" and "detecting a ramp of the amplified signal." As explained above, Epperson does not disclose detecting a ramp of an amplified signal produced by a gain control stage. Accordingly, Epperson fails to disclose each and every element of claim 17.

Claims 18-24 and 26 30 depend from claim 17. . Accordingly, Epperson fails to disclose each and every element of these claims, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 17. Further, these claims recite additional novel features.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-10, 12-24, and 26-30 is improper. Withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration of the claims therefore is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

2/24/06
Date

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